

My name is Trish Nardone, I have been an Airbnb host in Charlottesville for over two years. After the first experience my whole family has been involved in the process, it has been great for my two sons to meet people from across the world and has allowed me to share what I love so much about Charlottesville. My son is a child who, without a small classroom, would spend class time perpetually in time out. We realized early on that he would be more able to thrive with individualized education. Airbnb allowed our family to pay for Jason's schooling while keeping us in the black. We couldn't do it without this. I know other middle-class Virginian families like ours rely on their hosting income for many other expenses and bills. (An average family in Virginia earns \$4,400 a year hosting.)

In many ways, I am not now not just a resident, but a concierge, constantly running across out-of-the-way events and activities that I'm excited to show to my guests. But, as with many new things, I worry that people might not fully understand it and try to make home-sharing more difficult, or even illegal. Thanks to home-sharing, families like mine will be able to keep helping people from all over the world feel like they belong here just as much as we do. I hope that our representatives realize that stories like mine should be the driver for any time of legislation going forward.

Sincerely,

Trish Nardone

To whom it may concern:

My name is Nancy and I'm an Airbnb host in Falls Church Virginia. I have been reading a lot in the news about Airbnb hosts around the country and I wanted to write in to tell you a little about what hosting means to me. Hosting on Airbnb has allowed me to afford to stay in the neighborhood that I have lived in for decades.

Sharing my home allows me and others in my position to take what is usually the largest expense a person has, our house, and turn it into a profit. I am retired, but housing costs in my area have skyrocketed over the years. Hosting through Airbnb has been one of the best ways for me to keep up as person living on a fixed income

In addition to providing security, hosting allows me to meet interesting people from all over the world! My first three guests were from Korea, Dubai, Qatar, and I would have not experienced and learned first-hand their cultural and religious backgrounds which as a whole made me more aware and respectful of other cultures.

I also love sharing my favorite local spots to eat at Mosaic Center with my guests it shows off the best of what our has to offer.

I hope that when our lawmakers start addressing Airbnb and homesharing, that they let people like me continue to share our homes.

Nancy
Falls Church, Virginia
Airbnb Host

Dear Workgroup members,

My husband and I are Airbnb hosts in Charlottesville and we have had a great experience! We have a baby on the way and hosting helps us pay our mortgage.

Most of our guests are people who want a nice weekend out of DC and to visit the great wineries in the area. My guests always ask for recommendations to shop local. I always tell them to try the cupcakes from my favorite bakery Pearls, and to try the Wayside, restaurant down the street. I love showing off our city, and I know the business owners love the extra traffic.

Hosting people in my house is such a personal and gratifying experience. Staying in someone's home is the best way to experience a place live like a local. Who wouldn't want to be a Virginian and experience all we have to offer?

Lisa Amato

5/6/16

I am one of many Airbnb hosts in Richmond. I have always had a great experience opening my home to guests from around the world. The extra income that Airbnb provides me allows me to make full student loan payments, and I know hosting has helped a lot of other people too.

I decided to open my home during the UCI bike race, with so many people coming into town and not enough hotels to house them all. I hosted three different groups from all over the east coast that week, one of the guests actually being in the race! As you all probably remember, the streets were all blocked off for the race. The people staying in my house were able to walk along the course, and this made their whole experience of Richmond much more vibrant.

My guests also frequent all of my favorite local restaurants and bars. I love sharing my home city with visitors, and I know the restaurant owners love the extra business.

I hope that our local and state lawmakers protect hosts like me so that we can keep contributing to the local economy.

Brooke Nicole